



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

### **Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - October 30, 2002**

- ***In the West***, very cold weather continues to limit ***Northwestern*** winter wheat emergence and development, although recent snow showers provided a slight boost in topsoil moisture. Elsewhere in the ***West***, cool, dry weather favors autumn fieldwork.
- ***On the Plains***, unusually cold weather is slowing or halting winter wheat growth, although a patchy snow cover is providing some insulation across the ***northern half of the region***. This morning's temperatures plummeted below 0 degrees F in parts of ***Montana*** and fell below 20 degrees F as far south as ***eastern Colorado*** and ***northwestern Kansas***. Meanwhile on the ***southern Plains***, cool, dry weather favors a limited return to fieldwork, following recent heavy rainfall.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, light precipitation (rain and snow showers) and wet fields are hampering corn and soybean harvest operations across ***western portions of the region***. Meanwhile across the ***southern and eastern Corn Belt***, cool, overcast conditions are slowing winter wheat development.
- ***In the South***, the return of dry weather is promoting a gradual return to fieldwork, although muddy fields remain a problem in the ***lower Mississippi Valley*** and lowland flooding persists in the ***western Gulf Coast region***.

**Outlook:** Precipitation will slowly end in the ***Mid-Atlantic and Southeastern States*** as a storm system exits the region, while cool, dry weather will prevail in ***New England***. Farther west, bitterly cold air will settle into the ***Pacific Northwest*** and ***northern and central portions of the Rockies and Plains***, where high temperatures will average as much as 30 degrees F below normal. In addition, the leading edge of the Arctic air will be accompanied by occasional rain and snow in the ***Plains and Rockies***. In contrast, dry, mild weather is anticipated across the ***southern Rockies and Southwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for November 4-8 calls for above-normal precipitation in the ***Pacific Northwest, southern Texas, and New England***, while mostly dry weather is forecast for the ***north-central U.S. and eastern Gulf Coast States***. Below-normal temperatures are expected ***east of the Mississippi River***, but above-normal readings are forecast in most of the ***West***.

***Contact:*** Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)